

Amendments to the Specification

The following amendments to the specification are made by way of replacement paragraphs. Changes are shown with deletions in ~~striketrough~~ and additions underlined.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15, with the following replacement paragraph:

In one embodiment, the invention includes a method for imparting a spectral characteristic to a composite material, comprising the steps of providing a reinforcement material, coating the reinforcement material with pigment particles to produce a pigment coated reinforcement material, wherein the pigment particles impart the spectral characteristic, applying a resin material to the pigment coated reinforcement material, and curing the resin material to form the finished composite material comprising a matrix that binds the reinforcement material, wherein the matrix material provides durability to the pigment particles coating the reinforcement material. A fluidized bed of the pigment particles may be used in the step of coating the reinforcement material with pigment particles. A textured tool surface may be applied to the pigment coated reinforcement material. The finished composite material may be sanded.

Reinforcement materials include glass, carbon, ~~and organic fiber material made from poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide sold by DuPont® under the trade name Kevlar®, and organic fiber material made from polyethylene sold by Honeywell® under the trade name Spectra®~~Kevlar, among others. Pigments include metal flakes, inks, dyes, and pigment-coated microspheres, among others. Resins include vinyl ester resins and epoxy resins, among others.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following replacement paragraph:

In another embodiment, the invention includes a method for imparting a spectral characteristic to a composite material, comprising the steps of providing a reinforcement material, applying a resin material to the reinforcement material,

partially curing the resin material to form a partially cured resin material that binds the reinforcement material and has a tacky surface, coating the tacky surface of the partially cured resin material with pigment particles to produce a pigment coated partially cured resin material, wherein the pigment particles impart the spectral characteristic, and curing the pigment coated partially cured resin material to form a finished composite material comprising a matrix material that binds the reinforcement material, wherein the matrix material provides durability to the pigment particles coating the reinforcement material. A fluidized bed of the pigment particles may be used in the step of coating the tacky surface of the partially cured resin material with pigment particles. A textured tool surface may be applied to the pigment coated partially cured resin material. The finished composite material may be sanded. Reinforcement materials include glass, carbon, ~~and organic fiber material made from poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide sold by DuPont® under the trade name Kevlar®, and organic fiber material made from polyethylene sold by Honeywell® under the trade name Spectra®~~~~Kevlar~~, among others. Pigments include metal flakes, inks, dyes, and pigment-coated microspheres, among others. Resins include vinyl ester resins and epoxy resins, among others.